
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

**SECOND REVISED Notice of Intent to Adopt a
Mitigated Negative Declaration and
Notice of Hearing on
Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements
For Discharges from Eligible Vineyard Properties in the
Napa River and Sonoma Creek Watersheds**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) is accepting comments on a proposed Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Eligible Vineyard Properties in the Napa River and Sonoma Creek Watersheds (Conditional Waiver).

The purpose of the Conditional Waiver is to reduce sediment, runoff, and other pollutants in the Napa River and Sonoma Creek watersheds from existing and potential future vineyard properties. It waives requirements for waste discharge requirements provided the vineyard properties comply with the terms of the Conditional Waiver, such as implementing vineyard management practices to comply with water quality requirements.

Project documents for public review and comment include a proposed Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Public Resources Code §21000 et seq.). The draft Initial Study summarizes the requirements of the Conditional Waiver of WDRs, identifies potential environmental impacts, and describes the mitigation measures, incorporated into the proposed Conditional Waiver, to reduce all potential impacts to a less-than-significant level. The Water Board, acting as the Lead Agency under CEQA, must adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration before adopting the Conditional Waiver.

The proposed Conditional Waiver of WDRs, the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, and more information are available online at

www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/water_issues/programs/TMDLs/vineyard/index.shtml

Hard copies are available for public review at the Water Board's offices, 1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400, Oakland, CA 94612

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

In order to be fully considered, written comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 1, 2013. Send comments to the attention of Sandi Potter at the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board to the address listed above, or by fax to (510) 622-2426, or by email at smpotter@waterboards.ca.gov.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Water Board will hold a public hearing to consider adopting the Mitigated Negative Declaration and the Conditional Waiver of WDRs.

Time and Date: 9:00 A.M., March 13, 2013
Location: Auditorium, Elihu Harris State Building
1515 Clay Street, Oakland, CA 94612

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with 23 Cal. Code of Regulations §648 et seq. Time limits may be imposed on oral testimony at the public hearings; groups are encouraged to designate a spokesperson. All exhibits presented and considered by the Board at the hearing, including charts and graphs must be left with the Water Board. They will become part of the administrative record.

Ex Parte Communications. As of January 1, 2013, Ex parte communications are allowed in this matter subject to the disclosure requirements of Water Code section 13287. **Ex parte communications are prohibited for a period beginning 14 days before the Board meeting at which the proposed order is scheduled for Board action.** For communications concerning any issue in this proceeding, ex parte communications are prohibited starting on February 27, 2013. If the Board does not take action on March 13, 2013, the ex parte prohibition will remain in place until the Board, the Chair or the Executive Officer directs otherwise. Once lifted, the prohibition on ex parte communications may be reinstated for 14 days before the day of the Board meeting to which the decision is continued. The Board will provide notice via the Lyris email list for this item if the prohibition is lifted and/or reinstated.

A map and directions to the hearing are available online at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/about_us/directions.shtml.

The location of the hearing is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact the Water Board's Executive Assistant Mary Tryon, (510) 622-2399, mtryon@waterboards.ca.gov, at least five (5) working days before a meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Please Contact Sandi Potter at (510) 622-2426, or by e-mail at smpotter@waterboards.ca.gov, if you have any questions on this matter.